

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 IO-13 ACDA-12 HA-05 /116 W
-----097574 152127Z /12

R 101325Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1159
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMYUSSY SANA
COMIDEASTFOR
USCINCEUR
CINCUSNAVEUR
CINCPAC
CINCPACFLT

C O N F I D E N T I A L DJIBOUTI 1193

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PBOR, MILI, ET, SO
SUBJ: CONTINUED TENSIONS ALONG ETHIOPIAN-SOMALI FRONTIER

REF: DJIBOUTI 1084

1. FRENCH MILITARY AND DIPLOMATIC SOURCES DJIBOUTI INDICATE
SOMALI MILITARY FORCES IN NORTH OF COUNTRY REMAIN ON FIRST
LEVEL ALERT, A READINESS BASED ON FEAR OF ETHIOPIAN ATTACK.

2. THESE SAME FRENCH SOURCES CONTINUE TO DISCOUNT SOMALI
NERVOUSNESS. HOWEVER, THERE ARE TWO RECENT INDICATORS ON THE
ETHIOPIAN SIDE WHICH COULD GIVE SOME CONCERN TO THE SOMALIS.

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ACCORDING TO THE FRENCH, THERE HAVE RECENTLY APPEARED IN DIRE
RWWA
TWO NEW BATALLIONS OF ETHIOPIAN INFANTRY. THESE TWO
DAGROUPS ARE FULLY EQUIPPED WITH MOBILE EQUIPMENT AND COULD
CONCEIVABLY BE USED FOR LIGHTNING STRIKE ACROSS SOMALI
FRONTIER. THE SECOND INDICATOR OF INTEREST,, PERHAPS DIRECTLY
RELATED TO FIRST, WAS AIRLIFT BETWEEN ASSAB AND DIRE DAWA THIS

PAST WEEK (BELIEVED TO BE 3-5 AUGUST) IN WHICH SEVERAL AIRCRAFT PERFORMED FIFTY MISSIONS IN THREE DAYS. THE CARGO FROM ASSAB WAS UNIDENTIFIED.

3. ARGUING AGAINST THE CONCEPT OF T RAPID STRIKE BY ETHIOPIAN FORCES, THE FRENCH NOTE THAT THE NORTHERN SECTOR OF SOMALIA BETWEEN AREA NORTH ON ABDULKADER AND SOUTH TO BORAMA AND HARGESA IS HEAVILY PROTECTED, WITH EXCELLENT FIXED DEFENSIVE POSITIONS AND LARGE AMOUNTS OF EQUIPMENT. THEY WOULD CONSIDER AN ETHIOPIAN ATTACK AGAINST THAT ZONE AS EXTREMELY FOOLHARDY, AND THEY WOULD EXPECT THE ETHIOPIANS TO PAY DEARLY FOR SUCH AN ADVENTURE.
CLARKLD

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Message Attributes

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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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TAGS: PBOR, MILI, ET, SO
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